

On Top Of The News

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Tuesday, March 9, 2010

**INSIDE TODAY**

**U.S. NEWS**

**GAY SENATOR**



In this photo provided by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, state Sen. Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield, is seen in this booking photo. California Highway Patrol Lt. Jay Bart says Ashburn was spotted driving erratically about 2:10 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2010. He was arrested after a sobriety test, taken to Sacramento County Jail, given a blood alcohol test, booked and released.

*Read more on Page A5*

**SPORTS NEWS**

**'HAVE AT IT'**



This March 7, 2010, file photo shows Brad Keselowski (12) flipping after being nudged by Carl Edwards, top, during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Kobalt Tools 500 auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Edwards was 156 laps off the lead when he apparently decided it was time to settle a score with Keselowski.

*Read more on Page 12*

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In this image from TV, showing emergency workers and local people as they work to clear rubble to reach victims in Elazig Province, eastern Turkey, following a strong earthquake Monday March 8, 2010. A strong earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6, hit eastern Turkey on Monday, knocking down many stone or mud-brick houses and minarets in at least six villages in Elazig Province, an official said.

*Associated Press*

## Survivors shiver in Turkey after earthquake kills 51

BURHAN OZBILICI

SUZAN FRASER

**Associated Press Writers**

OKCULAR, Turkey (AP) — Hundreds of earthquake survivors huddled in aid tents and around bonfires Monday in eastern Turkey, seeking relief from the winter cold after a strong tremor knocked down stone and mud-brick houses in five villages, killing 51 people.

The damage appeared worst in the Kurdish village of Okcular, which was almost razed. At least 15 of the village's 900 residents were killed, the Elazig governor's office said, and the air was thick with dust from crumpled homes and barns.

The pre-dawn earthquake caught many residents as they slept, shaking the area's

poorly made buildings into piles of rubble. Panicked survivors fled into the narrow streets of this village perched on a hill in front of snow-covered mountains, with some people climbing out of windows to escape.

"I tried to get out of the door but it wouldn't open. I came out of the window and started helping my neighbors," Ali Riza Ferhat of Okcular told NTV television. "We removed six bodies."

The Kandilli seismology center said the 6.0-magnitude quake hit at 4:32 a.m. (0232 GMT, 9 p.m. EST Sunday) near the village of Basyurt in a remote, sparsely populated area of Elazig province. The region is 340 miles east of Ankara, the capital.

*Continued on Page 6*

**Obama wants U.S. trial for some Guantanamo suspects**

DEVLIN BARRETT

MATT APUZZO

**Associated Press Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP)

— White House aides are increasingly convinced that the professed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, will not face trial in a civilian court and are trying to cut a deal that would still transfer Guantanamo Bay terror suspects to the United States, where many would face criminal charges, a senior administration official said Monday.

*Continued on Next Page*

**Haiti frees U.S. missionary**



U.S. missionary Laura Silsby, 40, of Meridian, Idaho, arrested on child kidnapping charges, is escorted by police officers upon her arrival to the courthouse in Port-au-Prince, Monday, March 8, 2010.

*Associated Press*

*Read more on Page A9*

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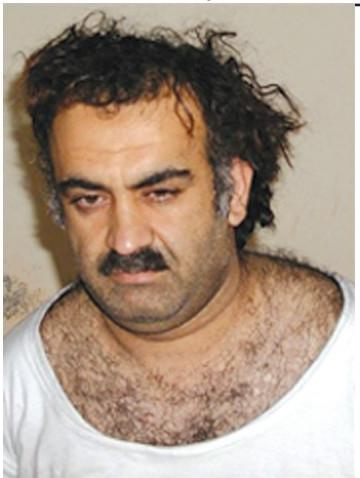
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This March 1, 2003 file picture shows Khalid Sheik Mohammed, shortly after his capture during a raid in Pakistan. White House aides are increasingly convinced that accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed will never face trial in a civilian court and are trying to cut a deal that would still transfer Guantanamo Bay terrorism suspects to the U.S., where many would faces charges, a senior administration official said Monday.

*Associated Press*

#### GUANTANAMO SUSPECTS

*Continued from Front Page*  
President Barack Obama is

trying to keep a campaign pledge to close the island military prison, which has attracted criticism from Republicans who say it would jeopardize national security. He also has been under fire lately from people within his Democratic Party who say Obama should not accept any deal that would prosecute Mohammed outside the normal judicial system.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations, said the most important goals are closing Guantanamo Bay and ensuring that the government can prosecute some detainees in U.S. courts. To do so, the only option may be to abandon the administration's original plan to prosecute the alleged 9/11 conspirators in civilian courts and instead send them before military tribunals.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham is seen as key to the deal. During the weekend, the moderate Republican expressed willingness to cut a deal that leads to closing

Guantanamo Bay. "If we could get Khalid Sheik Mohammed and the co-conspirators of 9/11 back in the military commission, it'd go down well with the public," Graham said on CBS's Face the Nation.

The deal is far from done. The White House does not want to hold military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, a U.S. naval base on the southeastern tip of Cuba.

That means the administration would need to reach a deal to close the prison and hold military commissions within the United States.

Graham also wants to set up a new court system to handle detainees who are too dangerous to be released but who, because of evidence problems or other reasons, cannot be successfully prosecuted in either tribunals or civilian courts. The White House does not favor such a plan, so a compromise would have to be reached.

It is not at all clear the administration can muster the votes to pull together that

compromise. Normally, the executive branch has broad discretion on how to wage war and prosecute criminals, but Congress has threatened not to pay for any trials inside the United States. That has forced the White House into a difficult bargaining position. In an election year, every day that passes makes it more difficult to reach an accord. Republicans have seized several opportunities to criticize the administration as soft on terror, and many Democrats appear loathe to tackle the issue themselves, particularly when the administration appears conflicted and indecisive.

Ben Wittes, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank who recently rallied conservative lawyers to counter

a new line of Republican attack directed at lawyers within the administration, said the political debate over terror is "so coarse and stupid" it ignores the complexities of the national security problem.

He said the administration has made the situation worse for

itself by announcing plans, such as closing Guantanamo Bay or prosecuting Mohammed in New York, then letting opposition grow.

Underscoring what a political quagmire this has become, the American Civil Liberties Union ran a full-page advertisement in The New York Times on Sunday that criticized Obama for even considering military tribunals for Mohammed. The ad portrayed Obama morphing into President George W. Bush, reflecting a disappointment expressed by several supporters.

"The president must know, as a constitutional scholar, that he's making a horrible, horrible deal. I have no doubt about that," said David Nacham, a New York attorney who handles detainee cases and who supported and donated to Obama. "And I have no doubt that the people around him believe the deal is necessary to preserve other goals of the administration."

He said, however, that does not excuse a compromise he sees as unprincipled. □



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## Feds: California man ran student visa fraud ring

GILLIAN FLACCUS,

Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA, California

(AP) — A California man was charged Monday with operating a ring of illegal test-takers who helped dozens of Middle Eastern nationals obtain U.S. student visas by passing various proficiency and college-placement exams for them, federal authorities said.

The allegations reveal a potentially dangerous security breach in the country's student visa system and underscored the vulnerability of a tracking process that relies on schools and testing centers to verify the identities of people taking the mandated exams.

Eamonn Daniel Higgins, 46, of Laguna Niguel made an appearance in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana on one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud as federal immigration agents arrested 16 of his suspected clients who remained in Southern California. A judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf. In one case, a blond woman working for Higgins was allowed to take an exam using a fake ID that paired her photo with a man's Arabic name, said Debra Parker, acting deputy special agent in charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Los Angeles.

Authorities have not said any of the clients were engaged in terrorist activity and have yet to determine their motives for hiring Higgins.

Still, the investigation has alarmed immigration authorities, Parker said.

"Visa fraud is always a concern but their motive is definitely something that all of the participating agencies will be taking a very, very close look at over the next few weeks," she said. "It's pretty sophisticated and it's very impressive."

Six of Higgins' alleged clients face criminal charges, while the remaining students face deportation proceedings, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for ICE. Ten additional students were not arrested but will be questioned by agents in the ongoing investigation, Kice said.

A federal magistrate allowed Higgins to go free on \$5,000 bail. His public defender, Elizabeth Macias, declined to comment.

Authorities alleged that over a seven-year period, Higgins collected tens of thousands of dollars from foreign students from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Kuwait, Turkey and Qatar before he or his accomplices took their exams

at 10 Southern California community colleges and universities using doctored IDs.

Higgins charged as much as \$1,500 per student per exam for passing grades on English proficiency exams, writing assessments, English and math college placement tests, final exams and other college coursework the students needed to obtain their F-1 student visas or to stay current on the visas, authorities said.

E-mails discovered during the investigation indicated Higgins also attended classes for his clients. One e-mail exchange with a Saudi Arabian student named Mohammed Ali Alnuaim showed Alnuaim and several others were charged a total of more than \$34,000 to have others take a full course load for them, according to a court affidavit.

U.S. colleges and universities began using a specialized tracking system for foreign students after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but the current investigation exposed an unexpected loophole, Parker said. □



This photo released Monday March 8, 2010 by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shows evidence of fake test scores and California identification cards after they were confiscated from a California man who was charged Monday with operating a ring of illegal test-takers who helped dozens of Middle Eastern nationals obtain U.S. student visas by passing various proficiency and college-placement exams for them, federal authorities said.

Associated Press

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## Obama appeals for public support on health care



JULIE PACE,  
Associated Press Writer

GLENDALE, Pennsylvania  
(AP) — President Barack  
Obama accused insurance

companies of placing profits over people and said Republicans ignored long-festering problems as he sought to build public

support for his stalled health care legislation.

Obama's pitch on Monday in this Philadelphia suburb — along with a planned stop in St. Louis on Wednesday — comes as the president begins an all-out effort to get Congress to pass his health care proposals.

The next two weeks will prove decisive, with the White House pushing for a vote in the House of Representatives by March 18, when Obama leaves for an Asia trip.

"Let's seize reform, the need is great," Obama said at an appearance here that had the feel of a campaign rally.

The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens. About 50 million of America's 300 million people are without health insurance. Most of those who are insured rely on their employers for coverage.

The president said dismissively that Republican critics in Congress contend they want to do something about rising health care costs but failed when they held power. "You had 10 years. What happened? What were you doing?" he said to applause from an audience at Arcadia University.

Obama made his appeal as Democratic leaders in Congress worked on a rescue plan for sweeping changes in health care that seemed earlier in the year to be on the brink of passage.

The current two-step approach calls for the House to approve a Senate-passed bill despite opposition to several of its provisions, and for both houses to follow immediately with a companion measure that makes a series of changes. Republicans dismissed Obama's argument instantly.

"The American people have heard all this rhetoric from the president before, and they continue to say loudly and clearly they do not want a massive government takeover of health care," said House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio, who added the president's plan was "heavy on snake oil."

Democratic Sen. Arlen Specter, who traveled with Obama to the event in suburban Philadelphia, said the president's determined tone was "as fiery as I've seen him since the campaign."

Obama has long identified the insurance industry as an obstacle to changes along the lines he seeks, but the administration's actions and rhetoric seem to have

escalated in recent days.

The president's proposal would give the government the right to limit excessive premiums increases — a provision included after one firm announced a 39 percent increase in the price of individual policies sold in California.

Insurers have blamed rising rates on the growing prices of prescription drugs, hospital stays and other medical items.

The president's remarks came nearly a week after he took command of a final bid to pass his health care legislation and told a White House audience he wanted Congress to vote yes or no within a few weeks.

In the days since, he has met with two groups of wavering Democratic lawmakers, stressed the health care issue in his weekly radio and Internet address, and announced a trip to St. Louis for later in the week.

Full Democratic support is far from certain. Some party moderates are uneasy about the cost of the \$1 trillion bill and its language on abortion, and some House Democrats are suspicious of whether their Senate colleagues would follow through on promises to work out the differences in the bills. □

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# Ca. state senator says he's gay

ROBIN HINDERY,

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A California state senator who has staunchly opposed homosexual rights now says he is gay, ending days of speculation that began after his arrest last week for investigation of driving under the influence.

Roy Ashburn, a conservative Republican, came out in an interview with KERN radio.

Ashburn said he felt compelled to address rumors that he had visited a gay nightclub near the Capitol before his drunken driving arrest. "I am gay ... those are the words that have been so difficult for me for so long," Ashburn told conservative talk show host Inga Barks.

The 55-year-old father of four said he had tried to keep his personal life separate from his professional life until his March 3 arrest.

"When I crossed the line and broke the law and put people at risk, that's different, and I do owe people an explanation," he said.

Ashburn was arrested after he was spotted driving erratically near the Capitol, according to the California Highway Patrol. Shelly Orio, a spokeswoman from the district attorney's office, said a breath test showed the senator's blood-alcohol level was .14 percent, or .06 points above the legal limit.

The next day, reports surfaced that he had left Faces, a gay nightclub, with an unidentified man in the passenger seat of his Senate-owned vehicle.

"The best way to handle that is to be truthful and to say to my constituents and all who care that I am gay," he said. "But I don't think it's something that has affected, nor will it affect, how I do my job."

Over 14 years in office, Ashburn has voted against a number of gay rights measures, including efforts to expand anti-discrimination laws and recognize out-of-state gay marriages.

Last year, he opposed a bill to establish a day of recognition to honor slain gay rights activist

Harvey Milk.

Equality California, a group that advocates for expanded gay rights and other issues, said it consistently gave Ashburn a 0 rating on its scorecard.

The group's executive director, Geoff Kors, said Monday that he hopes the senator's revelation will lead to a change in his voting patterns.

"He's still the same person, only living more honestly," Kors said. "I hope his own self-awareness will result in him no longer voting to deny people the most basic rights."

Ashburn said his votes reflected the way constituents in his district wanted him to vote, not necessarily his own views.

"I felt my duty — and I still feel this way — is to represent my constituents, not my own point of view, not my own internal conflict," he told Barks.

He said he planned to continue voting on behalf of what he sees as the majority viewpoint in his district, which includes parts of



State Sen. Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield, left, who had announced earlier in the day that he was gay, gets a kiss from former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, who is also gay, at the capitol in Sacramento, Calif. on Monday, March 8, 2010.

Associated Press

Kern, Tulare and San Bernardino counties.

Ashburn has been on personal leave since his arrest but was expected to return Monday to the Senate. His spokesman, Noel Libang, did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

In the radio interview, Ashburn said he is drawing on his Christian faith, and he asked people to pray for him.

He said he does not plan to run for any public office after his term ends later this year. □

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**TURKEY EARTHQUAKE***Continued from Front Page*

The U.S. Geological Survey listed the quake at 5.9 magnitude.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Kandilli Observatory's director, Mustafa Erdik, urged residents not to enter any damaged homes, warning they could topple from aftershocks that Erdik said could last for days.

More than 100 aftershocks measuring up to 5.5 magnitude shook the region on Monday alone.

In addition to the deaths, 34 people were being treated for injuries, Turkey's crisis center said.

Abdulkirim Sekerdag, 72, said he had just risen for early morning prayers when the quake hit.

"The jolt threw me onto the ground," he told The Associated Press. "When I got up I checked my animals and then I checked on my

neighbors."

"Two of them were buried. We pulled them out," he said, adding that they were alive but injured.

Men used shovels and bare hands to dig two bodies out from under piles of dirt, rubble and concrete blocks, video footage showed. Both bodies were covered in blankets and carried away. One appeared to be a baby or young child. Women in veils gathered near the rescue scenes, some crying.

"Everything has been knocked down, there is not a stone in place," said Yadin Apaydin, administrator for the village of Yukari Kanatli, where three died.

Fifteen people were killed in the nearby village of Yukari Demirci, Gov. Muammer Erol said, while four each were killed in the villages of Kayalik and Gocmezler and 10 others died after being taken to a hospital in the town of Kovancilar.



**Women search for family members trapped in the debris of a destroyed house in Okcular village in the eastern province of Elazig, Turkey, Monday, March 8, 2010, hours after a strong earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6, hit eastern Turkey early Monday, killing scores of people and knocking down houses in at least six small villages, the government said. The quake affected villages near the town of Kovancilar, toppling stone or mud-brick homes and minarets of mosques, officials and media reports said. The worst-hit area was the village of Okcular where homes crumbled into piles of dirt.**

**Associated Press**

Most of the dead were immediately buried according to Muslim traditions. A few funerals had to be put off until Tuesday.

The tremor also knocked down barns, killing many farm animals. A half-dozen dead cows were seen partially buried near one collapsed home. One man, Haci Sekerdag, said he lost eight cows and calves — his main livelihood.

The Turkish Red Crescent set up tents and villagers laid plastic sheeting to shelter them from the cold and dirt. The government said it rushed ambulance helicopters, prefabricated homes and mobile kitchens into the stricken area.

Erdogan blamed the region's mud-brick buildings for the many deaths and said the government housing agency would build quake-proof homes in the area.

The quake was also felt in the neighboring provinces

of Tunceli, Bingol and Diyarbakir, where residents fled to the streets in panic and stayed outdoors. Schools were closed for two days. In

Tunceli province, the quake caused one school's walls to crack, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

A museum in Elazig displaying artifacts from the Iron-age Kingdom of Urartu was not affected by the quake, and nearby dams were also intact.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, much of which lies on top of two main fault lines. In 1999, two powerful earthquakes struck the country's northwest, killing about 18,000 people. In 2003, a 6.4-magnitude earthquake killed 177 people in Bingol, including 84 children whose school dormitory collapsed.

Monday's quake in eastern Turkey followed deadly recent temblors in Haiti and Chile, but Bernard Doft, the seismologist for the Royal

Netherlands Meteorological Institute in Utrecht, said there was no direct connection between the three.

"These events are too far apart to be of direct influence to each other," he said.

Richard Luckett, a seismologist from the British Geological Survey, said there has not been a spike in global seismic activity.

"If there was a big increase in the number of magnitude 6.0s in the past decade we would know it, because we would see it in the statistics," Luckett said. "We haven't seen an increase in 7.0s either."

He said scientists often see strong earthquakes but they don't get reported because the damage or death toll is minimal. According to USGS data, the world is hit by about 134 earthquakes a year in the 6.0- to 6.9-magnitude range — or about two a week.

"The point is that earthquakes are common and always have been," he said. □

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# Hundreds slaughtered in Nigeria religious violence

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press Writer

DOGO NAHAWA, Nigeria (AP) — The killers showed no mercy: They didn't spare women and children, or even a 4-day-old baby, from their machetes. On Monday, Nigerian women wailed in the streets as a dump truck carried dozens of bodies past burned-out homes toward a mass grave.

Rubber-gloved workers pulled ever-smaller bodies from the dump truck and tossed them into the mass grave. A crowd began singing a hymn with the refrain, "Jesus said I am the way to heaven." As the grave filled, the grieving crowd sang: "Jesus, show me the way."

At least 200 people, most of them Christians, were slaughtered on Sunday, according to residents, aid groups and journalists. The local government gave a figure

more than twice that amount, but offered no casualty list or other information to substantiate it.

An Associated Press reporter counted 61 corpses, 32 of them children, being buried in the mass grave in the village of Dogo Nahawa on Monday. Other victims would be buried elsewhere. At a local morgue the bodies of children, including a diaper-clad toddler, were tangled together. One appeared to have been scalped. Others had severed hands and feet.

The horrific violence comes after sectarian killings in this region in January left more than 300 dead, most of them Muslim. Some victims were shoved into sewer pits and communal wells.

Sunday's bloodshed in three mostly Christian villages appeared to be reprisal attacks, said Red Cross spokesman

Robin Waubo.

Nigeria is almost evenly split between Muslims in the north and the predominantly Christian south. The recent bloodshed has been happening in central Nigeria, in towns which lie along the country's religious fault line. It is Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for control of fertile lands.

The Rev. Pandang Yamsat, the president of a local Christian group, said he has urged his congregation not to respond violently to Muslims. However, he said he believes Muslims in the area want to control the region and that any peace talks would only give Muslims "time to conquer territory with swords."

"We have done our best to tell our members, 'don't go and attack Muslims, they are your brother,'" Yamsat said. However, "if they come to



Unidentified women react to the sight of dead bodies in Dogo Nahawa, Nigeria, Monday, March 8, 2010. More than 200 people, most of them Christians, were slaughtered on Sunday in central Nigeria, according to residents, aid groups and journalists. The local government gave a figure more than twice that amount, but offered no casualty list or other information to substantiate it.

Associated Press

dislodge you in your place, stand to defend yourself."

Barely controlled rage spilled over in the village as those gathered for the mass burial attacked a Muslim journalist covering the event. The journalist escaped, but others made threats against reporters.

The Rev. Federico Lombardi, a Vatican spokesman, condemned the violence and said Monday that the conflict must be interpreted in the light of social, economic, ethnic and cultural factors rather than religious hatred.

The killings add to the tally of thousands who have already perished in Africa's most populous country in the last decade due to religious and political frictions. Rioting in

September 2001 killed more than 1,000 people. Muslim-Christian battles killed up to 700 people in 2004. More than 300 residents died during a similar uprising in 2008.

The killings in Dogo Nahawa, three miles south of the region's main city of Jos, began early Sunday.

Chuwanga Gyang, 30, said he heard a gunshot and left his house through the back door but stopped when he realized that the attackers were shooting to herd fleeing villagers toward another group of attackers carrying machetes.

He recalled climbing into a tree and watching as villagers were killed and the attackers set homes alight over the course of 90 minutes. □



This Sept. 5, 2007 file photo shows former Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Associated Press

## Cyprus police say found corpse could be ex-leader

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press Writer

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cypriot police acting on a tipoff found a body at a Nicosia cemetery that they believe could be the stolen corpse of former president Tassos Papadopoulos, a spokesman said on Monday.

Michalis Katsounotos wouldn't say in what state the corpse was or whether it was buried. He also did not say what evidence investigators have to lead them to believe it could be that of the former Greek Cypriot leader.

Katsounotos said the corpse was found at a different cemetery to the suburban Nicosia graveyard from where it was stolen on Dec. 11 — the eve of the first anniversary of Papadopoulos' death.

He said DNA testing would be carried out to positively identify the body.

Family members, including three of Papadopoulos' adult children, rushed to the cemetery amid heavy police security. Police said the robbers who took the corpse had removed a heavy marble plaque from on top of the grave, digging down to the coffin and removing the body of Papadopoulos, who died of lung cancer on Dec. 12, 2008, at age 74.

The robbers left few clues at the scene. Lime was strewn over the grave in what investigators believe was an attempt to erase any tracks they might have left behind. Investigators even sought the help of the FBI and Interpol as well as Greek and Israeli law enforcement authorities to solve the bizarre case.

The body-snatching horrified Cypriots and came as the island's Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders were locked in complex negotiations aimed at reunifying the divided island. □

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# Israelis, Palestinians to begin indirect talks



In this photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, shakes hand with U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell during their meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, March 7, 2010. A skeptical Palestinian leadership agreed Sunday to begin U.S.-mediated peace talks with Israel, effectively ending a 14-month breakdown in communications between the two sides.

*Associated Press*

**IAN DEITCH,**  
**Associated Press Writer**

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the Palestinians agreed to begin indirect, American-brokered talks, the U.S. Mideast envoy announced Monday — ending a 14-month deadlock in peacemaking and representing the

Obama administration's first substantive diplomatic achievement here.

The announcement, however, came just hours after Israel enraged Palestinians by announcing new West Bank settlement construction on the same day U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden

landed in the region to promote negotiations.

Israel's decision to build 112 new housing units on lands Palestinians claim for a future state highlighted the tough road ahead for those seeking peace in the region. Also underlining the difficulties are sharp divisions between Palestinian moderates and militants as well as a hardline Israeli government opposed to many concessions seen as necessary for peace.

George Mitchell, the U.S. envoy who is visiting the region, said in a statement that he hoped the indirect talks "will lead to direct negotiations as soon as possible." And in what might have been a reaction to the latest Israeli move, he appealed to the two sides not do to anything that could jeopardize the talks. "We also again encourage the parties, and all concerned, to refrain from any statements or actions which may inflame tensions or prejudice the outcome of these talks," said Mitchell, who is expected to shuttle between Israel and the Palestinian territories over the next several weeks.

Israel authorized the construction of new apartments in the West Bank despite a pledge to halt all new settlement building, the government disclosed Monday — angering the Palestinians just as Biden landed in Israel for the highest-level visit yet by an Obama administration official.

The announcement came a day after Palestinians agreed to hold indirect talks with Israel, backing off from a demand that Israel freeze all building in the West Bank and east Jerusalem before they returned to the negotiating table. They considered Israel's willingness to halt new construction insufficient because it excluded east Jerusalem and projects already under way.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat accused Israel of

trying to undermine the talks even before they began. "If the Israeli government wants to sabotage Mitchell's efforts by taking such steps, let's talk to Mitchell about maybe not doing this (indirect talks) if the price is so high," Erekat said.

The Palestinians presented the U.S. envoy with a document outlining their desired peace agreement — a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, with minor border adjustments. At a meeting with Mitchell on Monday, Abbas also raised the issue of the new construction, Erekat said, saying it "put a big question mark on what it is that we came to do."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sounded upbeat after his meeting with the U.S. envoy Monday. "I believe we will succeed in advancing the diplomatic process," the Israeli leader said. "But the diplomatic process is not a game, it is real, and rooted first and foremost in (Israel's) security."

Later Monday, the Israeli leader welcomed the new start to negotiations in a speech in Jerusalem, saying: "I hope the proximity talks will quickly lead to direct talks that would really allow the promotion of peace." He stressed, however, that negotiations would only succeed if the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state and that Israel's security be guaranteed.

Jewish construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem is a particularly sore point with the Palestinians.

When Israel announced its partial settlement freeze in November, it said at the time that exceptions to the slowdown could be allowed. And on Monday, the Ministry of Defense said an exception was made in the case of the ultra-Orthodox Beitar Illit because of what it called safety and infrastructure issues. The ministry said it was the biggest exception granted since the slowdown

went into effect.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Israeli officials had explained that the construction was approved before the moratorium.

"On the one hand, it does not violate the moratorium that the Israelis previously announced," Crowley said. "On the other hand, this is a kind of thing that both sides need to be cautious of as we move ahead with these parallel talks."

Israeli anti-settlement watchdog Peace Now also questioned Israel's motives. "The Israeli government is welcoming the vice president by demonstrating, to our regret, that it has no genuine intention to advance the peace process," said the group's settlement expert, Hagit Ofra.

Militant Palestinian groups like Hamas have condemned Abbas' decision to renew talks, and on Monday several factions based in Damascus accused the Palestinian Authority of caving in to pressure from the U.S. and Israel.

Hamas is now in control of the Gaza Strip after winning a civil war there against Abbas' Palestinian Authority, which has close ties to the West and enjoys generous funding from the international community. The Authority has undertaken economic reforms in recent years in the one territory it still controls — the West Bank.

And on Monday Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad unveiled a \$3.13 billion budget for 2010, about \$80 million more than last year. He said that after years of a conflict-driven downturn, government revenues are up, partly due to economic growth projected at 7 percent this year.

Fayyad said he will more than triple spending on development projects to \$667 million, in line with donor countries' desire to see more money earmarked for infrastructure, health and education. □

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## Haiti frees U.S. missionary; group leader still held

**EVENS SANON,**  
**Associated Press Writer**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — One of two Baptist missionaries still held on kidnapping charges in Haiti was released Monday, but the U.S. group's leader remained in custody.

Charisa Coulter, 24, was taken from her jail cell to the airport by U.S. Embassy staff more than a month after she and nine other Americans were arrested for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti after the earthquake.

Coulter, wearing a red tank top and sunglasses, declined comment as she quickly got into an SUV that took her to the airport.

The leader of the Idaho-based missionary group, Laura Silsby, said she was glad about Coulter's release. "I'm very happy that she left today, and for her freedom, and expect mine to come soon," Silsby told The Associated Press as she left the courthouse where a judge held a closed hearing Monday.

Silsby, 40, was returned to her cell in a police station near Port-au-Prince airport.

Defense lawyer Louis Ricardo Chachoute said Coulter was released because there was no evidence to support the charges

of kidnapping and criminal association. He predicted Silsby would be released soon as well.

"There are no prosecution witnesses to substantiate anything," Chachoute said. Coulter, of Boise, Idaho, is a diabetic and had medical difficulties during her confinement. She was treated at least once, on Feb. 1, by American doctors after collapsing with what she said was either severe dehydration or the flu. After a court hearing

Monday for Silsby, Judge Bernard Saint-Vil said he heard evidence from a police officer who said he stopped Silsby from loading a bus with children near the Dominican Republic consulate in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 26. That was three days before her group was arrested while trying to cross into the Dominican Republic with 33 children.

"I found inconsistencies in some of Laura's statements," Saint-Vil told reporters, saying he planned to visit the Dominican consulate to resolve them.

The Dominican consul in Haiti, Carlos Castillo, has said previously that he warned Silsby she lacked the required papers to leave the country with the children and risked

being arrested at the border for child trafficking.

The Americans' arrest came as Haitian authorities were trying to crack down on unauthorized adoptions to prevent child trafficking in the chaos following the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake.

Silsby initially said the children were orphaned in the quake that the government said has killed more than 230,000 people. But the AP found the children had been given away by still-living parents.

Chachoute said the Americans only came to Haiti to help the country. "Firstly, there was no criminal conspiracy; secondly, there was no child snatching," he said.

Silsby herself repeated Monday that "I came from very far, and I came here to help the children."

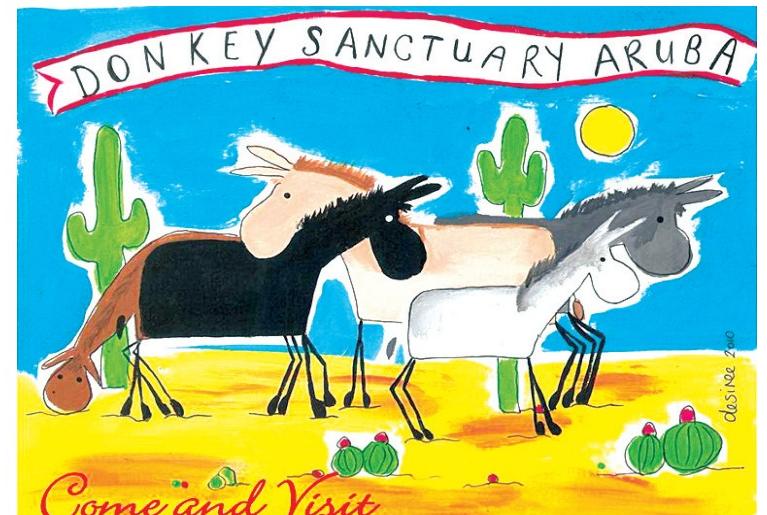
The group planned to take the children to the neighboring Dominican Republic to an orphanage that Silsby was creating in a former hotel.

The judge released eight of the Americans on Feb. 17 after concluding parents voluntarily gave up their children in the belief that the Baptist group would give them a better life. But he decided he still had additional questions for Silsby and Coulter. □



Charisa Coulter, second from right, of Meridian, Idaho, one of two US Baptist missionaries held on kidnapping charges in Haiti, arrives to the airport, accompanied by US embassy staff, after her release from jail in Port-au-Prince, Monday, March 8, 2010. Coulter was set free more than a month after she and nine other Americans were arrested for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti without proper documents after the Jan. 12 earthquake. Laura Silsby, the leader of the Idaho-based missionaries, remains detained.

Associated Press



# Japan dolphin hunt town shrugs off 'Cove' Oscar



A dolphin demonstrates a flip at a dolphin pool in Taiji, southwestern Japan, where visitors can play with the animals Monday, March 8, 2010. The Japanese fishing village featured in 'The Cove,' which won an Oscar for best documentary, defended Monday its practice of hunting dolphins as a part of its tradition. Residents of this remote village nestled on the rocky coast expressed disgust at the covertly filmed movie, which they said distorted the truth, though few acknowledged seeing it in its entirety.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

By JAY ALABASTER,  
Associated Press Writer

TAIJI, Japan — The gala crowd in Los Angeles cheered as "The Cove" won the best documentary Oscar with its grisly portrayal of dolphin hunting. Half a world away, residents of the small Japanese village shown in the film abhorred the attention and said it won't end their centuries-old tradition.

In Taiji on the rocky coast of southwest Japan, residents gathered in whale eateries with names like "Tail" and rolled their eyes Monday when told of Oscar laurels for the film, which they see as yet another biased foreign take on their culture.

The village of 3,500 people has been hunting dolphins and whales since the early 1600s. It calls itself "Whale Town" and has a massive pair of whale statues looming over the main road. "The Cove" refers to Taiji and its dolphin fishing as "a little town with a really big secret," but local councilman Hisato Ryono said there is nothing to hide.

"Everyone around here knows about it. The water nearby turns red during the hunt.

The actual killing is done in a concealed area because it is unpleasant to look at, as is true of killing cows or pigs or any other animal," said Ryono, who says he was tricked into appearing in the film.

"This is a close-knit group of fishermen. The more they feel squeezed, the more they will close off to outsiders. They won't stop this hunt because of such pressure," Ryono said.

The Japanese government allows about 19,000 dolphins to be killed each year. Taiji hunts about 2,000 dolphins every year for meat — less than other places — but is singled out in part because of its "oikomi" method of herding and killing them near the shore.

Dolphins, in addition to being food, are also recognized in Taiji as crowd pleasers with their playful natures, leading to odd contrasts. Taiji fishermen capture some to sell to aquariums, and the area is dotted with ocean cages offering dolphin bonding sessions. "Dolphin Base" charges 2,000 yen (\$22) for a 20-minute session less than half a mile from the cove where hundreds of the animals are

stabbed and dragged ashore in the annual hunt.

Like most residents of Taiji, the dolphin trainers repeatedly avoided talking to a foreign reporter — one young woman ran away when asked her opinion. At the nearby Dolphin Resort, a modern hotel complex with its own dolphin pool, manager Kiyo Ikeda agreed to be interviewed, as long as there were no questions about dolphins.

"We really don't get many foreign guests at this hotel," she said.

Many Taiji residents said they would no longer speak to foreign visitors on the record, after years of what they felt were one-sided articles and gory pictures shown out of context.

After the movie won, the town government issued a short news release.

"There are different food traditions within Japan and around the world," the statement read. "It is important to respect and understand regional food cultures, which are based on traditions with long histories."

The documentary, directed by Louie Psihogios, follows Ric O'Barry, a trainer for the 1960s "Flipper" TV series who says he became an activist because of a suicidal dolphin in his charge. The film team broke into a restricted area to set up cameras that captured the slaughter.

The Cove has not yet been released in Japan, but it will start showing here in June at 20 to 30 theaters nationwide. It was shown at the Tokyo International Film Festival in October, where viewers gave it mixed reviews.

Several Japanese who appear in the film, including Ryono the councilman, and Tetsuya Endo, an associate professor at Health Sciences University of Hokkaido, say they were lied to about its subject matter beforehand.

Endo, clearly angry when reached by telephone Monday, said he is considering legal action.

"I feel that they should have declined the award," he said.

## Argentine president celebrates local film's Oscar



Argentina's actor Ricardo Darin and actress Soledad Villamil gesture at a news conference in Buenos Aires, Monday, March 8, 2010. Dario and Villamil have the leading roles in the film 'El Secreto de Sus Ojos' which was awarded with the Oscar for best foreign language film at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday.

(AP Photo/Stringer)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez is congratulating the director and actors of the "The Secret in Their Eyes," a local film that won the Oscar for best foreign-language film.

Fernandez called the film "a fantastic movie that I saw twice and that had a real impact on me."

The movie portrays the activities of the Argentine Anti-

communist Alliance. That "Triple A" death squad has been connected to the deaths and disappearances of 1,500 people during the 1974-76 rule of former Argentine President Isabel Peron.

The film was directed by Juan Jose Campanella, who also directed the movie "Son of the Bride," which was nominated for best foreign film in 2002.

## Preliminary ratings show Oscars up over last year



Kathryn Bigelow accepts the Oscar for best achievement in directing for

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

NEW YORK — Early indications are that an Academy Awards telecast where "The Hurt Locker" topped the popular "Avatar" for best picture was popular with viewers.

The Nielsen Co.'s overnight measurement of the nation's 56 biggest markets gave ABC's Sunday telecast a 26.5 rating and 40 audience share. That's a 14 percent increase over the same rating for last year's telecast, when "Slumdog Millionaire" was named best picture.

"I feel that they should have declined the award," he said.

# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### MetLife seals Alico deal after two-year quest



A statue stands atop Grand Central Station in front of the MetLife building in New York, October 8, 2008.

By Paritosh Bansal

NEW YORK (Reuters) - MetLife Inc (MET.N) pursued AIG's (AIG.N) foreign life insurance business for two years before finally clinching a \$15.5 billion purchase that will give it beachheads in 47 nations from Peru to Bangladesh.

The deal will help MetLife, already the largest life insurer in the United States and Mexico, diversify revenue by product, distribution and geography.

It comes a week after American International Group Inc agreed to sell its Asian life unit, American International Assurance (AIA), to Britain's Prudential for \$35.5 billion, the largest deal ever in the insurance sector.

AIG is raising funds to repay a massive government bailout. "The AIA deal really is an Asia deal. Ours is really a global deal," William Toppeta, president of MetLife's international business, told Reuters in an interview. "It is really about the growth opportunities in a lot of parts of the world and not just about Asia."

MetLife shares rose 4 percent to their highest level in nearly six months, and AIG rose 3.4 percent.

Bill Bergman, an analyst at Morningstar, said more competition in the developing world may make those

**REUTERS/Lucas Jackson**  
markets less attractive than they have been. But he added, "The market seems to think it makes sense for MetLife." MetLife first started eyeing AIG's American Life Insurance Co (Alico), which sells life, accident and health insurance as well as retirement and wealth management products in 55 countries, in the months before AIG nearly collapsed in September 2008.

"The first time that we focused most intensively on Alico would have been in 2008, probably the early part of 2008," Toppeta said. "And then, of course, the events of the summer and fall of 2008 sort of overtook everybody."

MetLife said it would pay \$6.8 billion in cash and \$8.7 billion in equity for Alico, confirming an earlier Reuters report.

For U.S. taxpayers, who have committed \$182.3 billion to bailing out AIG, the deal will help them recover billions of their rescue funds, although they are probably still years away from untangling themselves totally from the once-mighty insurer.

With the AIA and Alico deals, AIG plans to repay the Federal Reserve Bank of New York about \$31.5 billion in cash, with more expected as it sells Prudential and MetLife securities over time.

The proceeds should help the insurer pay down all of its New York Fed debt, but it

will still leave the government holding roughly \$47 billion in equity investments, including the amount drawn under a \$30 billion equity line. The government also has a nearly 80 percent stake in AIG.

To exit from AIG completely, the government is likely to follow a strategy similar to what it has used with Citigroup Inc (C.N) in a process that will probably take years.

"It's a step in the right direction -- liquefying its better assets and paying back the taxpayer. But the prospects there are still very uncertain," Bergman said, referring to AIG.

**METLIFE GOES GLOBAL**  
Thanks to the acquisition of Alico, founded in 1921, MetLife will get a special boost in Japan, the world's second-largest life insurance market, which accounted for 70 percent of Alico's pre-tax operating income in fiscal year.

Alico will also strengthen MetLife's position in Europe and move it into a top five market position in many emerging markets in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

MetLife expects the deal to increase its 2011 operating earnings per share by 45 cents to 55 cents, excluding one-time expenses of 12 cents. It sees annualized post-tax cost savings of \$50 million to \$75 million.

Analysts, on average, expected MetLife to post a profit of \$4.89 per share in 2011, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Early last year, MetLife offered about \$11 billion for Alico, but AIG avoided a fire sale after the New York Fed, advised by Morgan Stanley (MS.N), agreed in March 2009 to swap its debt into equity in special purpose vehicles that AIG created to hold AIA and Alico. □



Joseph Gliozzo, center, with Cuttone & Co., sits in front of his trading screen, Monday, March 8, 2010, at the New York Stock Exchange. Gliozzo is working at a newly-designed trading desk at the exchange.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

### Stocks get help from more corporate dealmaking

By STEPHEN BERNARD  
and TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks are trading in a tight range after a new round of mergers and acquisitions raised hopes for the economy.

Financial shares are higher Monday after insurer American International Group Inc. reached a deal to sell one of its major foreign divisions to MetLife Inc. for \$15.5 billion. MetLife had confirmed last month it was in talks with AIG to buy the business known as Alico.

At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average is down 13 at 10,554. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is down 1 at 1,138. The Nasdaq composite index is up 3 at 2,329.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks traded in a tight range Monday after a new round of mergers and acquisitions raised hopes for the economy.

Financial shares rose after insurer American International Group Inc. reached a deal to sell one of its major foreign divisions to MetLife Inc. for \$15.5 billion. MetLife had confirmed last month it was in talks with AIG to buy the unit known as Alico. It's the second major sale AIG has made this month as part of its plans to trim operations, shed assets and repay more than \$100 billion in government bailout money it received during the credit crisis.

Also, Royal Dutch Shell and PetroChina offered to buy Australia's Arrow Energy Ltd. for \$3 billion in cash and stock. Royal Dutch Shell already owns a 10 percent stake in Arrow's international business.

In late morning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.72, or less than 0.1 percent, to 10,568.92. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.82, or 0.1 percent, to 1,139.51, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 3.39, or 0.2 percent, to 2,329.74. Bond prices fell. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.72 percent from 3.69 percent late Friday. □

# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



# Edwards and Keselowski 'have at it' again



**Brad Keselowski, center, is helped to an ambulance after being involved in a crash during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Kobalt Tools 500 auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga., Sunday, March 7, 2010.**

*Associated Press*

## Ping waives settlement on square-shaped grooves

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The 20-year-old Ping wedges with square-shaped grooves will no longer be allowed on the PGA Tour starting March 29 under an agreement reached Monday with Ping executives.

John Solheim, the chairman and CEO of Ping, said the Phoenix-based company is waiving its right that had kept the PGA Tour from banning Ping Eye2 wedges made before April 1, 1990 that have deeper, wide grooves no longer allowed under new USGA regulations.

Those wedges were allowed through a 1990 settlement from when Ping sued the PGA Tour and U.S. Golf Association. Phil Mickelson, Hunter Mahan, John Daly and Fred Couples were among players who used the Ping wedges. It had become such a divisive issue that Scott McCarron accused Mickelson of "cheating" by using the club.

"John Solheim and Ping had a terrific opportunity to do something very positive and significant for the game of golf, and we very much appreciate his willingness to take this action," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

Ping also said it will apply the waiver to the U.S. Open.

The waiver takes effect the week after the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill and will apply on the PGA Tour, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. It will not apply to amateur competitions.

In return for the waiver, Solheim is hopeful equipment companies will have a stronger voice when the USGA makes new rules. The USGA will hold a forum this fall to improve the process of creating equipment regulations.

"I've been consistent in voicing my concerns over the last

**PAUL NEWBERRY**

**AP Sports Writer**

HAMPTON, Georgia (AP) — Carl Edwards was 156 laps off the lead when he apparently decided it was time to settle a score with Brad Keselowski. The result was a frightening crash that sent Keselowski's car flying toward the stands at Atlanta Motor Speedway, and put NASCAR's "have at it" philosophy to the test a mere four races into a season that was supposed to let the drivers show more aggression and emotion.

It remains to be seen if Edwards will be suspended for what appeared to be an intentional bump of Keselowski at more than 190 mph, or whether NASCAR will give the No. 99 a pass for merely taking its

new mandate to the extreme.

"To come back and intentionally wreck someone, that's not cool," said Keselowski, who escaped Sunday's crash unscathed. "You could have killed someone in the grandstands." The feud between Edwards and Keselowski boiled over with three laps to go in the Kobalt Tools 500, a race won by Kurt Busch but overshadowed by the shenanigans going on behind him.

A decision from NASCAR is expected Monday or Tuesday. Edwards faces the possibility of a fine, loss of points or even a suspension for the next race at Bristol in two weeks.

"I would say there seems to be a history between those two drivers," said Robin

Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition. "I'm not going to go any further into it right now."

There's definitely some history between these guys. Last April, Keselowski and Edwards were racing for the win in a tightly bunched pack at Talladega when their cars got together. Edwards spun into Ryan Newman's path, and the second hit sent Edwards' car soaring toward the main stands. While the battered car was slung back onto the track by the safety fencing and Edwards was OK, seven fans were injured by flying debris. "At least I didn't do it intentionally when it happened," Keselowski said. The two scrapped again in Atlanta. Early on, Keselowski got underneath Edwards coming through turns one and two, which sent the No. 99 careening into Joey Logano along the outside wall.

While his car was in the garage for lengthy repairs, Edwards complained that Keselowski "never gives any room at all" but sounded as though he wasn't too upset about the incident. With Keselowski contending for a top-five finish, Edwards banged into him as they came to the start-finish line. Keselowski's No. 12 car went into a spin, lifted off the track, turned upside down and slammed into the barrier in front of the stands with the roof. The battered machine flipped back onto the track, landing right side up.

"It will be interesting to see how NASCAR reacts to it. They have the ball," Keselowski said. "If they're going to allow people to intentionally wreck each other at tracks this fast, we will hurt someone either in the cars or in the grandstands. It's not cool to wreck someone intentionally at 195 mph."

*Continued on Page 14*



This Jan. 30, 2010 file photo shows Phil Mickelson looking on after hitting a bunker shot on the sixth hole during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. Mickelson is among at least four players at the tournament using a Ping-Eye 2 wedge.

*Associated Press*

several years about the challenges of the current rule-making process and the needs to improve it to the benefit of golfers," Solheim said. "I am hopeful this will be a significant first step in realizing this goal. Our goal is to help ensure innovation remains an important part of golf's tradition."

Solheim worked with his father, Ping founder Karsten Solheim, when the settlement was reached in 1990 that allowed for the square grooves in Ping irons manufactured until April 1, 1990. That settlement took precedence over new rules that changed the specifications in grooves, and eight players took advantage of the loophole. Daly and Dean Wilson were the first players to use them at the Sony Open. Daly said he had collected more than a dozen wedges, while other players found them in the garage or from friends. They even became a hot item on eBay.



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NBA Roundup

## Magic get revenge, top Lakers in finals rematch

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Vince Carter had 25 points, and Dwight Howard finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds as the Orlando Magic beat the Lakers 96-94 on Sunday to hand Los Angeles its first three-game losing streak of the Pau Gasol-Kobe Bryant Era.

Carter made his first 13 free throws and kept the Magic in control, showing signs of why Orlando made the move for the eight-time All-Star after losing to the Lakers in last year's finals.

Bryant had 34 points and Gasol added 20 points for the Lakers, walking to the locker room distraught and dejected after their latest loss. And with quite a different feeling than that champagne-soaked championship celebration last June.

At Boston, Ray Allen scored a game-high 25 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 17.1 seconds remaining, as Boston rallied past Washington.

Boston trailed 79-66 with 6:11 remaining and responded with a 20-4 run to close out the game with eight points from Allen and six from guard Rajon Rondo.

Al Thornton scored 24 points to lead the Wizards and Andray Blatche added 23 for Washington.

### Pistons 110, Rockets 107, OT

At Auburn, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored a season-high 29 points to help Detroit snap a six-game losing streak.

Richard Hamilton added 22 points for Detroit, while Kevin Martin had 27 points for Houston and Aaron Brooks scored 25. Martin and Brooks, though, both missed key 3-point attempts in the last 10 seconds of overtime.

### Nuggets 118, Trail Blazers 106

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points — his third consecutive game with at least 30 points — as Denver beat

Portland for its third straight victory.

J.R. Smith added 22 points, Chauncey Billups had 21 points and Nene 14 for the Nuggets.

Jerryd Bayless' 24 points led the Trail Blazers, who saw their three-game winning streak snapped.

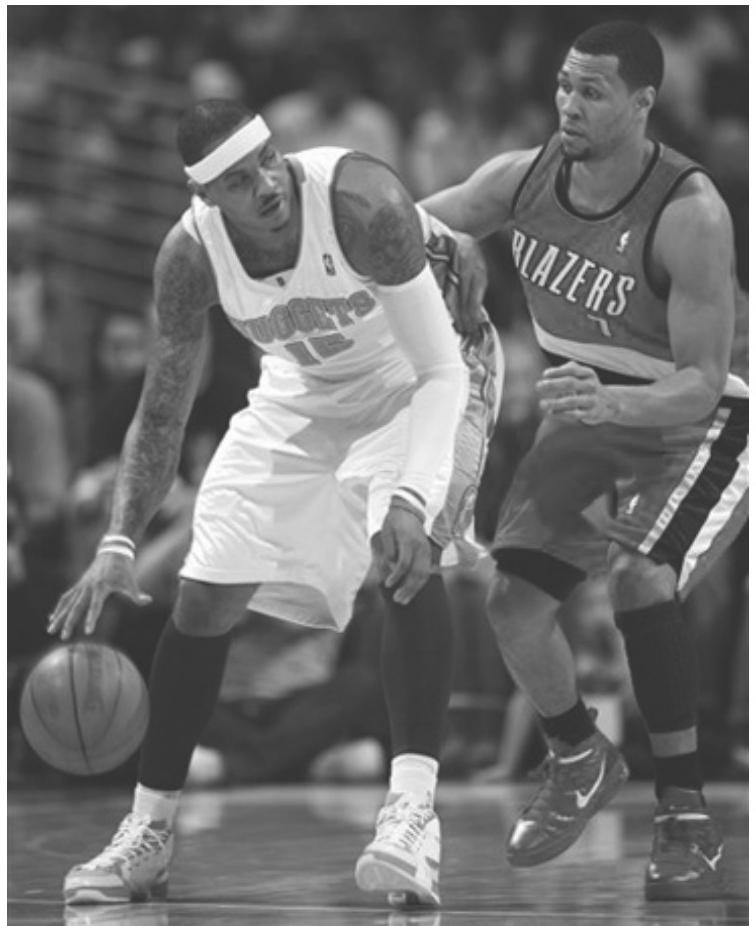
Andre Miller had 19 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16.

### Thunder 108, Kings 102

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Durant had 27 points and eight rebounds as Oklahoma City beat Sacramento.

The road victory was the seventh in nine games for the Thunder, who are 3-1 against the Kings this season.

**In other NBA games it was, Philadelphia 114, Toronto 101; Orlando 96, L.A. Lakers 94; Detroit 110, Houston 107, OT; Boston 86, Washington 83; Oklahoma City 108, Sacramento 102; and Denver 118, Portland 106. □**



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, left, works the ball inside as Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy defends in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver on Sunday, March 7, 2010.

Associated Press



Gregory Henderson of New Zealand wins the first stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race in Contres, central France, Monday, March 8, 2010. Lars Boom of Netherlands leads the race overall.

Associated Press

CONTRES, France (AP) — Greg Henderson of New Zealand won a sprint Monday to take the first stage of the Paris-Nice race, and Lars Boom

of the Netherlands maintained the overall lead.

Henderson beat Slovenian rider Grega Bole and Jeremy Galland of France to complete

### Paris-Nice

## Henderson wins first stage

the 125-mile flat stage in 4 hours, 22 minutes, 17 seconds. "It was a headwind and it was like a slow motion sprint, and I was lucky to get it on the line," Henderson said. "It's beautiful to win here and to win such a beautiful race is real honor."

Two-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador fell behind over the last 15 kilometers and then crashed and hurt his leg, but didn't appear seriously injured.

He quickly got back on the bike and finished 25 seconds behind Boom to sit eighth overall.

"I'm worried by the blow I took in the leg," Contador said. "I hope I will be able to start tomorrow's stage."

Boom won the race prologue Sunday and finished in the main pack with the same time as Henderson and retained the yellow jersey, 5 seconds ahead of German veteran Jens Voigt. British rider David Millar is in third place, 13 seconds back.

Romain Feillu of France launched the first attack early in the stage and was followed by Dutchman Albert Timmer. With the help of a strong

tailwind, they set a high tempo at front and rode alone for 146 kilometers before being caught about 50 kilometers from the finish line.

Philippe Gilbert, last year's Tour of Lombardy winner, and Dutchman Tom Veelers tried their luck with 41 kilometers to go and quickly built a one-minute lead while American rider Levi Leipheimer was held up by a crash at the back of the peloton.

About 30 riders were caught in the pileup but were able to get back on their bikes. □


**EDWARD AND KESELOWSKI**
*Continued from Page 12*

After the crash, NASCAR ordered Edwards off the track. He drove defiantly around the quarter-mile track in front of the stands and went backward down the pit lane before meeting privately with series officials in their trailer.

Climbing from the car, he didn't even bother with a denial.

"Brad knows the deal between him and I," Edwards said. "The scary part is the car went airborne, which was not what I expected. At the end of the day, we're out here to race and people have to have respect for one another and I have a lot of respect for people's safety."

"I wish it wouldn't have gone

like that, but I'm glad he's OK and we'll just go on and race some more and maybe him and I won't get in any more incidents together. That would be the best thing."

Before the season, the governing body encouraged drivers to do more banging and show more emotion, in large part to answer a growing fan sentiment that the sport had gone stale. Pemberton himself said, "We will put it back in the hands of drivers, and we will say 'Boys, have at it and have a good time.'"

While suspensions are rare in a sport that rewards consistency and being on the track for every race, they're not unprecedented.

In 2007, Robby Gordon spun out Marcus Ambrose during

a Nationwide series race in Montreal, ignored a black flag and was suspended for the following day's Cup event at Pocono. That same year, truck driver Ted Musgrave was ordered to sit out a race for hitting a competitor during a caution period.

The facts in this case seem pretty clear.

"It looked like it could have been a payback from the No. 99 on the No. 12," Pemberton said.

"We talked with Carl after the race and we have an understanding about it. ... Carl said he got into him. He said he didn't expect the result."

Keselowski defended his actions in the first incident Sunday.

"He cut down on me on a restart and I lifted (off the accelerator). I couldn't lift fast enough," he said. "I was underneath him and tried to cut him a break. It was too late, though. He turned down. I apologized to him, but there was nothing that I could do in that situation."

The race need a couple of overtime restarts before Busch pulled away for the win.

After the Keselowski smashup, Busch pulled off a brilliant move to slip between Paul Menard and Clint Bowyer,

snatching away the lead going into turn one. But he couldn't get all the way around to take the white flag before a seven-car crash broke out behind him.

On the second green-white-checkered attempt, Busch powered away on the restart, zipped around the track two more times and beat Matt Kenseth to the line by nearly half a second to win the Atlanta spring race for the second year in a row. It took 16 extra laps to finish a race that was scheduled for 325.

Juan Pablo Montoya was third, followed by Kasey Kahne and Menard. □

## Phelps breaks own U.S. record



**Michael Phelps races in the 200-yard butterfly at the Maryland Swim Championships, setting a new U.S. record of 1 minute, 39.65 seconds on Sunday, March 7, 2010, in Annapolis, Md.**

*Associated Press*

**ANNAPOLIS, Maryland** (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps broke his own U.S. short course record in the 200 yard butterfly at the Maryland Swim Championships on Sunday at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Phelps, who won both the 2004 and 2008 Olympic gold medal in the 200 meter butterfly, had a time of 1:39.65. His old U.S. record of 1:39.70 in the 200-yard event was set March 3, 2006 at the South Texas American Short Course Championships.

The Naval Academy pool is measured in yards, not meters. The record is considered unofficial until it is certified by USA Swimming.

It was the third win of the weekend for Phelps, who was swimming competitively for the first time in seven weeks.

"When the crowd starts yelling like they were, you know something good is happening," Phelps said. "Whenever they get behind it and get more excited and louder, you kind of feel the energy and gain adrenaline. Being able to have that was definitely helpful. It makes it so much more exciting. You really can hear them on every stroke." Phelps was primed to set the U.S. record in the shorter course race. "I tried to find out what my splits were when I broke the record back in '06 and just wanted to see what I could do tonight," Phelps said. "I wanted to try and go out and take a shot at it. Coming off the last turn I wanted to stay under as long as I could. That was clearly the difference." □

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# Coutts unsure of America's Cup future with Oracle

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Russell Coutts is continuing to plan the first American defense of the America's Cup since 1995 but hasn't yet decided whether he will be a participant.

Coutts is in his native New Zealand to meet America's Cup teams competing over the next week in the Louis Vuitton Trophy series, to gauge their views on how the 34th Cup regatta — likely to be held in San Francisco — should be conducted.

The 48-year-old Coutts was chief executive of the San Francisco-based Oracle syndicate which won the America's Cup from Swiss holders Alinghi off the Spanish port of Valencia last month to return sports' oldest trophy to the United States.

He had been responsible for taking the trophy from the U.S. when he skippered Team New Zealand to victory over Dennis Conner's Young America team off San Diego in 1995.

Coutts told New Zealand

media Monday he was working to firm up Oracle's plans for its Cup defense but hadn't yet decided whether he would attempt to win the trophy for a fifth time.

"I'm still deciding what to do in the future. I don't want to rush things on that," Coutts told the New Zealand Herald.

"I've got a young family now and that's definitely a consideration."

"Right now I'm just doing the best job I can for Oracle and trying to speak to some of the other teams to create some good processes [for the next America's Cup], but I haven't made a decision on my future yet."

Coutts confirmed the next America's Cup regatta would likely be held off San Francisco — home of Oracle's founding Golden Gate Yacht Club — and probably in 2013.

"We have to announce a timeline for some of the key decisions like the venue, format, type of boats and so forth at the end of March," he said.

"We've been meeting some of the teams to get their



BMW Oracle Racing CEO Russell Coutts during a press conference held in Valencia, Spain on Monday Feb. 15, 2010. The America's Cup is poised to return to its traditional multiple challenger format. Oracle's trimaran beat Alinghi's catamaran.

*Associated Press*

ideas on some of the big issues to be sorted out."

Coutts said it would be for competing teams to decide whether the next Cup regatta involved multihulls, like the space-age trimaran Oracle sailed off Valencia, or more traditional monohull yachts. "The

multihulls were spectacular. I think it should be at least discussed if you came up with a sensible rule. But I think most people would probably favor monohulls, but I'm not making any presumptions," he said.

"If we end up in San Francisco, at an exciting

venue with exciting wind conditions, there's a great opportunity to have some pretty spectacular boats.

"We've got to do a lot more work to figure out what budgets are acceptable, what the costs should be and fit that in with a consensus view of the teams." □

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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

## NHL Roundup

# Canadiens beat Ducks 4-3 in shootout

**ANAHEIM, California (AP)** — Tomas Plekanec added the winner in the fourth round of the shootout as the Montreal Canadiens' beat the Anaheim Ducks 4-3 in the NHL on Sunday.

Brian Gionta and Andrei Markov scored in the final 1:50 of regulation, and Plekanec also scored in the second period, helping the Montreal overcome an early three-goal deficit.

Anaheim center Saku Koivu played his first game against the team he spent his 13 previous NHL seasons with and captained for 10 of them — tying Jean Beliveau for the longest captaincy in the Canadiens' 101-year history. Ryan Getzlaf set up first-period goals by Corey Perry and Scott Niedermayer, and newly acquired Lubomir Visnovsky had a power-play goal for the Ducks, who are six points out of a playoff spot with 17 games left on the schedule.

### Penguins 2, Bruins 1

At Pittsburgh, Evgeni Malkin scored early in the third period after former linemate Pascal Dupuis' equalizer as Pittsburgh beat Boston.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 21 shots by the NHL's lowest-scoring team to help the Penguins end Boston's five-game road winning streak.

Malkin's 23rd goal was a wrist shot through traffic from the right circle less than 90 seconds into the third period. Malkin has at least one point in 16 of 17 games.

Bruins center Marc Savard was carried off the ice on a stretcher after being leveled Matt Cooke in the third period.

### Flames 5, Wild 2



Montreal Canadiens' Tomas Plekanec, right, of the Czech Republic, scores the winning goal in a shootout, beating Anaheim Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller (1), of Switzerland during an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 7, 2010, in Anaheim, Calif. Montreal won 4-3.

Associated Press

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Jarome Iginla had his 10th career hat trick and Vesa Toskala made 27 saves in his first start since being traded to Calgary.

Rene Bourque and Mark Giordano also scored for the Flames, who stayed within a point of Detroit for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Guillaume Latendresse scored twice for the Wild. Iginla also scored in the third on another slap shot during a 5-on-3 power play. He added an empty-net goal with 1:33 left.

### Red Wings 5, Blackhawks 4

At Chicago, Pavel Datsyuk capped a five-goal second period as Detroit rallied to beat Chicago, spoiling a hat trick by the Blackhawks' Andrew Ladd.

Brian Rafalski, Nicklas Lidstrom, Jason Williams and Valtteri Filppula also

scored in the second period for Detroit, which came back from a 2-0 deficit to win for the fourth time in five games.

Duncan Keith opened the scoring for Chicago at the 4:24 mark before Ladd made it 2-0, firing in a one-timer from the right circle off a turnover.

### Sabres 2, Rangers 1, OT

At New York, Patrick Kaleta banked in a rebound off goalie Henrik Lundqvist 2:22 into overtime to snap Buffalo's road losing streak at eight games.

Adam Mair gave Buffalo a 1-0 lead with 5:57 left in regulation, and Brandon Dubinsky tied it for New York with 1:23 remaining. New York had gone 149 minutes, 30 seconds without a goal, dating to the second period of a 5-4 home loss in overtime to Pittsburgh on Thursday.

### Hurricanes 4, Thrashers 0

At Atlanta, Manny Legace made 27 saves for Carolina's first shutout of the season, and Jussi Jokinen had a goal and an assist.

Legace improved to 9-5-2 with his 24th NHL shutout and first since April 5, 2008, for St. Louis against Columbus.

Carolina has won eight of nine overall. After losing its first 13 road games of the season, Carolina has won five of its last seven away from home.

Brandon Sutter, Joni Pitkamen and Rod Brind'Amour also scored.

### Canucks 4, Predators 2

At Nashville, Tennessee, Jannik Hansen scored the go-ahead goal with just under 6 minutes left in the third period for Vancouver.

Mikael Samuelsson, Alexander Edler and Henrik Sedin also scored for Vancouver, which has won three of its last four. The

Canucks are 7-5-0 so far on their franchise-high 14-game trip.

Jason Arnott and Jordin Tootoo had goals for the Predators, who have dropped back-to-back games after winning their previous three.

### Flyers 3, Maple Leafs 1

At Philadelphia, Simon Gagne and Danny Briere scored in a 1:16 span in the second period, and Michael Leighton made 27 saves for Philadelphia.

Jeff Carter scored his 30th goal to help the Flyers break a two-game losing streak in their first home game after the Olympic break. Nikolai Kulemin scored for Toronto.

### Oilers 2, Devils 0

At Edmonton, Jeff Deslauriers made 22 saves for his third shutout of the season while Gilbert Brule and Marc Pouliot scored for the Oilers in a 2-0 victory over New Jersey.

Edmonton also beat Minnesota on Friday night to snap a three-game losing streak. Last overall in the NHL, the Oilers are 6-25-2 in their last 33 games.

Edmonton opened the scoring 1:23 into the second. Patrick O'Sullivan tracked down a puck behind the New Jersey net and put in front to Brule. His quick shot banked in off of Brodeur for his 14th goal and 30th point of the season.

In other NHL games it was, Montreal 4, Anaheim 3, SO; Detroit 5, Chicago 4; Pittsburgh 2, Boston 1; Vancouver 4, Nashville 2; Calgary 5, Minnesota 2; Carolina 4, Atlanta 0; Buffalo 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, OT; Philadelphia 3, Toronto 1; and Edmonton 2, New Jersey 0. □

# LOCAL

# Aruba

# TODAY



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Foundation 'E Brug' with

## The Natural Secrets of Aruba on big screen in Cas di Cultura



ORANJESTAD - March is the month dedicated to Aruba with the highlight on March 18, the Day of the Anthem and Flag. But for Aldrich Croes of the foundation 'E Brug,' (The Bridge) the Aruba national day is much more than our National Flag and Anthem. It is about what

they symbolize, namely the island itself. Croes and his foundation will feature 'The Natural Secrets of Aruba,' during a four-day presentation in the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

'The Natural Secrets of Aruba,' is a documentary that not only 'honors' the

Aruba natural environment, but certainly aims to make the community aware of the raw beauty and value of Aruba's natural secrets.

The documentary maker was assisted by popular tour guide and former Parke Nacional Arikok Head Ranger Eddie Croes, who along with known Aruban elder Janny Coffie, took Aldrich Croes and his film crew to the quite unknown corners of Aruba, areas that not even many Arubans are aware of. Both are also featured in the documentary.

Aldrich Croes said his interest in making this nature film of Aruba was born after visiting with Mr. Coffie, who lives at the edge of 'civilization' here, right at the border with Parke National Arikok.

Mr. Coffie is known on the island for his vast understanding of Aruba's nature and natural medicine, particularly. He was the one who took the documentary maker to some of the most spectacular parts of the island to enjoy a

breathtaking sunrise amidst the hills of Parke Nacional Arikok, to marvel with the inspiring music orchestrated by local birds, and to simply experience a dramatic change in landscape after a strong rainfall.

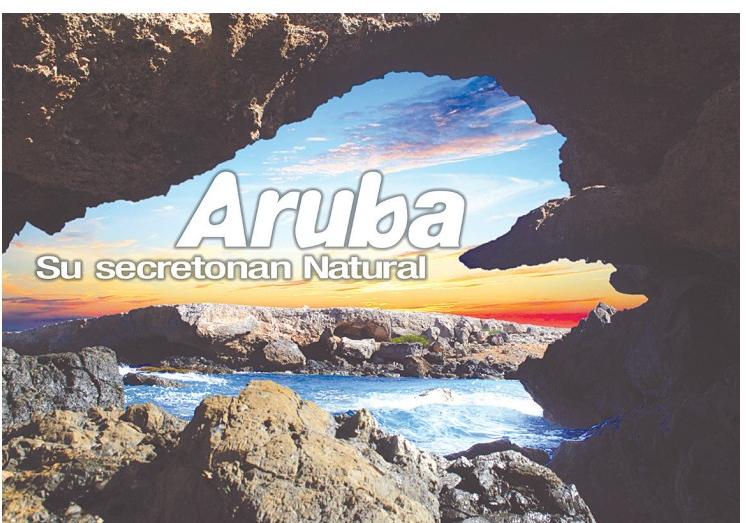
Eddy Croes on the other hand takes the viewer to the Triple Natural Bridge, and a black pebble beach very few people have ever seen, except for those who accompanied the tour guide in his many nature walks.

Aldrich Croes said his film will open the eyes to the wondrous beauty of Aruba and hopes the community will respond, as it will allow them to appreciate

the richness of Aruba's flora and fauna, things that many are not even conscious of. The documentary was produced by 'E Brug,' and ECA Production studio was in charge of filming and editing.

It was filmed over the course of years and "and now this artwork in homage of our nature," is ready, according to Aldrich Croes.

The showing days are from March 15 through the 18 and entrance fee is 15 florins per person. Proceeds go to the foundation 'E Brug,' which aims to produce informative and educative materials dedicated to the Aruban youth. □



At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino &amp; Spa

# TCF bank enjoys a genuine Caribbean Clam Bake



Pictured here TCF group members enjoy steel band music at their genuine Caribbean Clam Bake. The menu included iced shrimp and mussels, Aruban ceviche, grilled red snapper, Caribbean shrimp and scallops paella, and roast pork tenderloin, chanced by an island dessert extravaganza, right on the beach, toes in the sand.

Pictured here some memorable beach party moments. □



**PALM BEACH – TCF bank,** with 443 banking offices in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Colorado, Wisconsin, Indiana, Arizona and South Dakota, invited 63 top members of management to Aruba for a few days of fun in the sun.

The bank which provides retail and commercial banking services, organized a number of excellent events for the VIPs including a welcome reception, a Carnival night around the tropical pool and a formal farewell banquet.



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# American Commerce Insurance loves Amazonia



PALM BEACH – The group of American Commerce insurance, currently on vacation on the island visited Amazonia Churrascaria, the authentic Brazilian-style Rodizio Steakhouse, and enjoyed the continuous dining offered by the restaurant's troop of waiters armed with mega skewers, roaming the colorful and friendly indoor & outdoor dining room.

Served choice cuts of grilled



beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame, group members also took a number of trips to the extravagant forty-item, frequently changing salad bar where they sampled Chef Victor's cuisine, accompanied by bottomless cocktail and fine wines.

Pictured here the group enjoying a culinary adventure □



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**ATSA moves forward with initiatives for the 2010 year**

ORANJESTAD – Members of the Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) met over dinner and drinks to toast to accomplishments made in the 2009 year and with an eye on continued involvement in the tourism industry this year. The association get-together was held at Windows on Aruba, at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort, with representatives from the timeshare properties of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club, Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Casa del Mar, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Aruba Beach Club, La Quinta, Paradise Beach Villas, Caribbean Palm

Village, Amsterdam Manor, La Cabana, Divi Aruba Phoenix, Renaissance, Occidental and Playa Linda Beach Resort as well as De Palm Tours.

"Despite challenges, 2009 can be categorized as a good year for the time share industry in Aruba. Our members were proactive in providing their high level of services and timeshare guests proved unfailing in their loyalty to the island and their favorite timeshare resorts," comments ATSA President Jan van Nes. "In 2010 ATSA will work diligently to ensure the continued health of the industry in remaining active,

not only locally, but also on the international scene, working with the American Resort Development Association (ARDA)."

At the start of 2010, ATSA has participated in an exchange of views with the government and had contributed valuable insight into Aruba's timeshare industry and the expectations held by the island's large community of timeshare owners and guests. During the meeting in January, ATSA representatives had a very fruitful meeting with Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labor Otmar Oduber. Dialogue and participation by ATSA will continue as Aruba sets out on product improvement changes.

Within the timeshare industry itself, ATSA supports timeshare legislation changes that will be made official this year, and will reach out with regional initiatives by seeking to host the ARDA Caribbean convention in Aruba. At the same, improvements in Aruba's overall timeshare product will be accomplished through data gathered during the Freeman inspection of timeshare properties carried out last year. In all of its initiatives related to ensuring



the quality of the vacation ownership experience and in strengthening Aruba's tourism product, efforts will be led by the board members and industry veterans, ATSA President Jan van Nes, Treasurer Andy Osbourne and Secretary Aisa van der Biezen.

"We are committed as much to the island and the tourism industry as we are to our timeshare guests, who share with us an appreciation for the island and the unique experience that it offers," remarks Van Nes.

"ATSA views 2010 as a year in which opportunities abound for greater accomplishments within the timeshare industry for the benefit of Aruba as well as for its most loyal segment of

guest, its timeshare owners." Established in 1994, ATSA is the recognized voice and legal entity representing the special interests of vacation ownership in Aruba. The association's membership includes timeshare properties and condo co-op associations. It works on a local level, as a supporting member of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA), and with other local organizations as well as government entities. On a regional level, where Aruba continues to receive recognition as a model timeshare destination, ATSA continues to strengthen its ties with CHA, the Caribbean Hotel Association, and ARDA, the American Resort Developers Association. □

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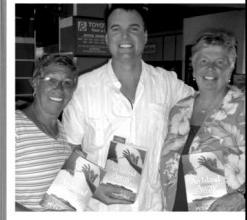
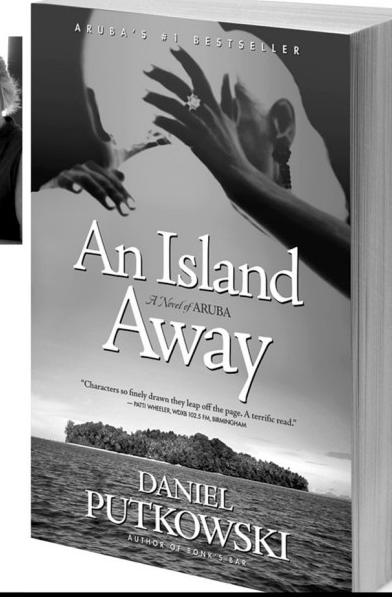
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With elimination of his migration policy

# Former Minister of Immigration distraught

ORANJESTAD - The elimination of the maximum three-year stay for foreign workers does not sit well with the former Minister of Immigration and current member of Parliament, Candelario 'Booshi' Wever. Wever was the Minister who instated the so-called Swiss model, limiting the maximum amount of years for a work permit to three. This policy was deemed complicated especially for hotels and other high service entities, including the hospital that struggled with lack of local employees to fill in the positions. The three year limit meant that the investment in training for these foreign employees did not pay out and in fact made the labor market even tenser.

This is also the reason why the new Government did away with the 'Swiss Model.' According to the new Minister of Immigration Benny Sevinger, the Swiss Model was not only inhuman for the foreign worker, but also for those who depend on the foreign employee's service, especially when it came to those who provided home care for elderly citizens.

But, according to Wever, the step to eliminate the Swiss Model has dire consequences. He does not accept that the Swiss Model as he introduced it, created havoc in our society, but that

in fact, the new Government invites disaster by allowing the foreign worker to stay longer. Staying longer will eventually mean family reunification which will allow him or/and her to have their spouses and children in Aruba, thus contributing to further population explosion. Restrictions for Dutch nationals not born in Aruba to establish here too have been highly criticized, and Wever is accusing the Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers in conspiring with his Dutch colleague Ernst Hirsch Ballin to lift those restrictions. "There are no restrictions for Dutch nationals of European descent to establish in The Netherlands Antilles,

and there are a number of problems there because of that," the opposition leader stated. "Once any Dutch national can show (in the Netherlands Antilles), he or she is automatically allowed to establish in that country." He argued that his policy was not discriminatory toward people coming from the other countries of the Kingdom partners, but that the open end admission of Dutch nationals not born in Aruba could mean that many in Europe can come and live in Aruba, without taking the size of and workers on the island into consideration. Moreover, in a recent court case in St. Maarten, the judge deemed that Americans too

have a legal right to be on these islands, based on a friendship treaty between the Kingdom and the USA. Wever is worried that by opening the doors to European Dutch and Americans, most hoteliers running American based companies will bring in workers from the US and Holland. Wever even fears that without the Swiss Model, Valero Refinery could fire all Aruban workers and bring in people from the US to fill in those jobs.

He is convinced the Swiss model served Aruba well, and that the criticism against that policy came from companies who preferred working with foreign labor, who are more likely to accept a lower salary

as compared to Arubans. Minister Sevinger on the other hand rejects that the new policy will work against Arubans or people living here. He said the government evaluates every work permit request based on (non) availability of local workers. Should there be people in Aruba who are jobless and can fulfill the responsibility; the work permit for a foreign worker will be denied.

It is important to note that even though the minimum salary in Aruba is much higher as compared to those paid in the region (1500 florins, about 835 US dollars), minimum wages in Holland and the USA are still considerably higher. □

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# \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

## Your Electromagnetic Body – A Tool For Manifestation

We are all aware of our physical bodies, but most of us are unaware of our electromagnetic Body. This is a portion of our selves that lies just beyond our limited perception of three dimensions. It is an entity that is conscious and aware of itself, just as it is aware of the physical part of you. Even though you are not aware of it, the ElectroMagnetic body is very much an aspect of you, expressing beyond three dimensional awareness.

The physical body is an expression of our electromagnetic energy. The energy within the

electromagnetic body works with the physical body to create the experience of our life.

When we deepen our understanding of how the hologram is generated, we gain further control over the process.

Think of your electromagnetic body as an egg-shaped rainbow sphere surrounding your physical body. It is not bound by three dimensional matter. It is a cloud around your body, about two feet thick, always changing and morphing into infinite permutations, depending on your attitudes toward life. The

electromagnetic fields direct and orchestrate the three dimensional hologram, based on our overall intention for entering a physical body. It draws certain experiences to us and repels what we have not signed up for.

Our electromagnetic body is our connection to the realm beyond three dimensions, where our thoughts and emotions reside. When we imagine something, it comes into existence beyond three dimensions. Our thoughts organize raw energy to create form.

When we embrace the emotional sensation, the feeling of the experience we're imagining, we become connected to that reality beyond spacetime. Using our emotional connection, we can pull the experience from our thoughts into our three dimensional lives.

Embrace the sensation of being in the life you want. Focus on the emotions of satisfaction, relaxation and confidence that come with having achieved all of your life's dreams. Imagine yourself in your infinite formless void, until a dim light appears in the distance. The light grows larger and brighter as it draws near, until you begin to discern its form. You realize that you are looking upon your own electromagnetic body,

creating the three dimensional hologram that you want to change.

As you watch yourself meditate, remember that you are watching the self you want to change, from the prosperous, happy, abundant self you have become.

have altered your hologram to more closely reflect your new outlook. Before opening your eyes, know that your present reality has shifted to bring you closer to your goal. Be open to change and opportunity in the following days, for it will surely come to you.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### **Quentin Danziger**

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

From your existing physical body that is presently in this meditation, embrace the freeing emotional sensations that have just been injected into your DNA. Feel the new vibrational frequency in your physical Body. It is subtle, but the change has occurred. Accept that you

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daily:					
matinee:	1:00	3:30			

PG-13 THE LOVELY BONES		5:30	8:30	late show:	11:30
daily:					
matinee:					

R EDGE OF DARKNESS		4:30	7:00	9:30	
daily:					
matinee:	2:00				

PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"		12:55	3:15	late show:	
daily:					
matinee:					

PG VALENTINE'S DAY		6:30	9:00	late show:	11:45
daily:					
matinee:	12:45	3:45			

R THE WOLFMAN		6:00	8:45	late show:	11:30
daily:					
matinee:	12:15	3:00			

PG-13 THE FOURTH KIND		4:15	6:45	9:15	late show: 11:45
daily:					
matinee:	1:30				

**AT PASEO HERENCIA**

R SHUTTTER ISLAND		5:30	8:30	late show:	11:30
daily:					
matinee:		2:30			

PG-13 DEAR JOHN		4:00	6:30	9:00	late show: 11:30
daily:					
matinee:	1:30				

PG PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS		5:30	8:15	late show:	11:00
daily:					
matinee:	12:00	2:45			

PG EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES		6:00	8:45	late show:	11:15
daily:					
matinee:	1:00	3:30			

R FROM PARIS WITH LOVE		4:00	6:15	8:30	late show: 11:00
daily:					
matinee:	1:45				

PG-13 AVATAR		4:45	8:00	late show:	11:15
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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

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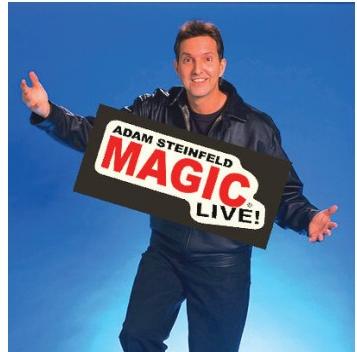
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SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show , Westin - Aruba openedonDecember25at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfield... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny,intelligent,sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfield opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfield recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba.MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show....at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



## IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show  
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)  
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld  
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm  
Tickets: at the door  
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults  
Group Sales: 561-1090  
website: [www.MagicLive.com](http://www.MagicLive.com)  
Blog: [www.MagicOnTheBeach.com](http://www.MagicOnTheBeach.com)

# Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

## From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

**ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.**

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

*"Dinner is almost ready..."*



Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

*Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.*



### **Special of the month**

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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per person



PALM BEACH – For the past three weeks the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino was host to four groups of Philips Lighting employees from North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States), Latin America and the Central America cluster. The last group of participants left Aruba on Monday March 8th.

Over 280 Philips employees enjoyed the island while participating in the Philips Lighting Quality Improvement



*Minister Michelle Winklaar Joining At Papiamento Restaurant*

## Aruba Marriott Says Farewell To Philips Lighting After 3 Weeks



Competition (QIC). Each group of participants presented innovative solutions to a Philips jury followed by an Awards dinner and fun island activities. The last group of 70 participants from Latin America represented the countries Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru along with Philips colleagues from Central America.

Congratulations to Team "Grow Savings" from Colombia, who launched the winning project out of all improvements presented, earning a trip to Dublin, Ireland.

The Philips QIC Award dinner on March 5th was held at Papiamento Restaurant with Minister of Culture, Economic & Social Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar present as a guest of honor. In her speech Hooyboer-Winklaar mentioned the Philips' value "Depend on each other" which is also one of the values of Winklaar's political party AVP that recently won the elections. In both cases team work is the key to success, according to the Minister.

Daytime activities to explore the island included a Scavenger Hunt and Beach Olympic games at the Marriott along with a farewell night at Moomba Beach in tropical style with Aruba's carnival dancers performing in colorful outfits.

Shown here are some snapshots from participants of the Philips Lighting group enjoying a taste of Aruba's diverse culinary offerings and enjoying the presence of



waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. Luxury hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club is the newest addition to this beachfront resort. Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. □

## Red Sail Sports Aruba for all sail cruises

*Sail with Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset along Aruba's scenic Coastline*



PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.

Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one



day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.



# Aqua Grill...“the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers,” Fodor’s Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh

seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond.

In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's



largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. □

## Fun Island Living, at T.H. Palm & Company



Palm Beach -- The beautiful T.H. Palm & Company offers an exceptional, upscale shopping experience aptly described as “Fun Island Living.”

Owned by long time Aruba resident Jodi Tobman who has several other boutiques on the island, Jodi reports she had a lot of fun creating this magnificent jewel of a boutique which first opened its doors in June of 2004.

A wide variety of distinctive items are on display on interesting antique décor pieces, from luscious silk tropical shirts for men to stylish resort

wear and exclusive artisan jewelry for women. The theme of “Fun Island Living” is apparent in the wide selection of accessories for home including tropical barware and serving pieces, books, artwork and lamps. There are handbags “to live for” and an array of gifts for children of all ages as well as a variety of novelty gift items for pets.

When visiting T.H. Palm & Company, we suggest you take your time as you will need to browse from floor to ceiling in order not to miss anything. Larger items can be shipped to your home address at a nominal fee and shipping is

always an available option. For those who find it hard to choose from among all the enchanting objects in stock or for those who do not have time to shop, a Personal Shopper service is available to assist at no extra charge, by appointment, please.

T.H. Palm & Company is conveniently located in front of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and offers late night shopping and convenient parking. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fridays open until 11 p.m. Telephone +297 586 8909. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com □

## Church calls for independent investigation into sex abuse



The Roman Catholic church in the Netherlands is calling for an independent investigation into reports of widespread sexual abuse within its institutions.

Bishop Ad van Luyn made his call for the investigation in the TV programme Kruispunt; he says it is the job of the church to clearly condemn abuse and to apologise to victims. He says he also wants to ensure measures are taken to prevent any repetition of sexual abuse in the future.

"First of all, I feel that the victims should as soon as possible have a talk with the persons now in charge of and responsible for the institutions where these things took place. A talk that is honest and transparent, leading to recognition of the facts, leading to apologies for the suffering caused and which leads to redress wherever possible. "The second thing is that the entire church must feel ashamed and that it is also the church's role to condemn this abuse clearly and plainly once and for all, to offer apologies, and to take all the measures necessary to guarantee prevention in the future." Allegations of child sex abuse by priests at a boarding school in the eastern town of 's-Heerenberg came to light following an investigation by Radio Netherlands Worldwide and Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad.

First published a week ago our articles showed that during the 1960s and 1970s at least three and possibly more pupils were sexually abused at the school attached to the Don Rua monastery of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

Bishop Van Luyn, who now chairs the Netherlands Synod of Bishops, was provincial head of the Salesian order in the 1970s and taught at the school when some of the alleged abuse took place.

Now a week later almost 200 people have contacted the Roman Catholic help agency Help & Justice (Hulp & Recht) with further reports of sexual abuse. Bishop Van Luyn admits that it will be necessary to seek the assistance of experts from outside the church to handle the investigation:

"What has to happen now, and I have said this before, is that there has to be a thorough investigation into the facts, the reports, the context and the background against which this could take place, and also into the reactions at the time, how those in charge responded to the situations they were aware of."

"I personally am convinced that an independent investigation would do the most to meet the - justifiable - expectations of the victims, of society and also of the church community. "We don't have all the expertise ourselves. It will be a very complex investigation which should be left to experts. And I think if they do it, the outcome will be more acceptable and come across more clearly. Further investigation by Radio Netherlands Worldwide and NRC Handelsblad has revealed that in 2006, the church in Utrecht closed a deal with insurance company Aegon to set aside one million euros to cover claims demanded by victims who have been sexually abused by Catholic priests. Any damages exceeding the one million euros must be paid by the church. □

## Dutch group endorses right to suicide for elderly



By TOBY STERLING

The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — A campaign to give elderly people in the Netherlands the right to assisted suicide said Monday it has gathered more than 100,000 signatures, hoping to push the boundaries another notch in the country that first legalized euthanasia.

The signatures are enough to force a debate in parliament, where it is certain to face resistance. Even if widely approved, the proposal would normally go through a lengthy process of committee work and consensus-building that could take years.

The legalization of euthanasia for the terminally ill in 2002 was preceded by decades of discussion and quiet negotiation that attached stringent conditions and medical supervision.

Spokeswoman Marie-Jose Grotenhuis of the "Of Free Will" campaign said the group had hoped for the 40,000 signatures needed to bring the idea to parliament when it launched its initiative in February. It has so far received 112,500 signatures, in a country of 16 million.

The group proposes training non-doctors to administer a lethal potion to people over the age of 70 who "consider their lives complete" and want to die. The assistants would need to be certified and make sure that patients were not acting on a whim or due to a temporary depression, but from a heartfelt and

enduring desire to die.

"We've been overwhelmed by the amount of reactions, especially because people took it so seriously and reactions were mostly positive," Grotenhuis told reporters Monday.

Many religious groups oppose any form of suicide on principle. The Royal Dutch Medical Association — which played a key role in supporting the nation's euthanasia law — says it opposes the assisted suicide idea in part because it believes it would undermine doctors' position in the current euthanasia policy.

Under Dutch law, two doctors must agree a patient is suffering unbearably from illness with no hope of recovery, and wants to die, before he or she can be given a lethal cocktail of sedatives.

Several European countries allow some assistance to terminally ill people who wish to die.

In Switzerland assisting someone to die is not illegal

as long as there is no "selfish motivation." Belgium has followed the Dutch model, while Britain and France allow terminally ill people to refuse treatment but stop short of allowing active euthanasia.

The Dutch doctors' association says it fears patients would use an assisted suicide policy as a way of getting around their own doctors.

Grotenhuis said Monday her group would wait for national elections on June 9 before bringing the matter before parliament.

Around 2,500 euthanasia cases were reported in the Netherlands in 2009, a number that has risen gradually in the past decade. An official panel set up to review euthanasia cases attributes the rise to greater willingness of doctors to disclose the practice.

Medical association spokesman Sander Hofman said Monday not all doctors agree that assisted suicide should be banned or that doctors should play no role whatsoever when one of their patients is determined to commit suicide.

"For instance, a doctor probably has a role in easing the suffering of a person who is refusing to eat or drink," he said.

He said the organization was setting up internal debate panels to discuss the matter further. □



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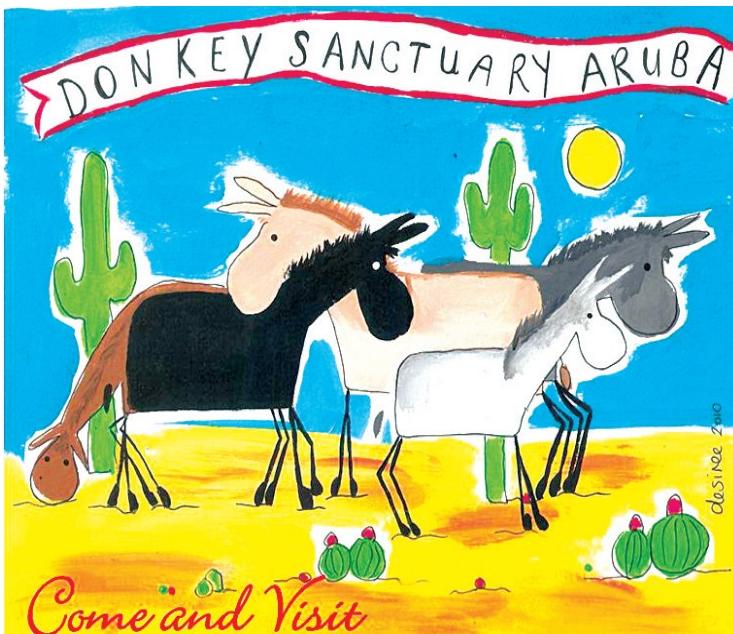
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# Campamentos son el nuevo hogar de miles de chilenos

CONCEPCIÓN, Chile (AP)

- Viven en un campamento improvisado bajo un frondoso árbol tras dejar atrás sus arruinadas viviendas y huir de la violencia desatada en su barrio, uno de los más afectados por el devastador terremoto del 27 de febrero. Su caso refleja el de miles de chilenos a lo largo de la extensa zona asolada por el terremoto de magnitud 8,8, uno de los más violentos en el país sudamericano. Llegaron de la barriada de Boca Sur, muy cerca del centro de Concepción y a unos 500 kilómetros al sur de Santiago. El Parque Ecuador es su nuevo hogar desde el mismo día terremoto, y afirman que sólo los vecinos las han ayudado. Se niega a volver a sus hogares, algunos destruidos, porque dicen que no llega el agua potable.

Han golpeado muchas puertas, incluso la Municipalidad de Concepción, donde les



Un hombre descansa en un campamento de afectados por el terremoto del 27 de febrero, Concepción, Chile, el lunes 8 de marzo de 2010. (AP foto/Silvia Izquierdo)

respondieron que no las ayudarían porque pertenecen al municipio de San Pedro.

“Da pena llegar a esto, estar viviendo aquí en el parque, tener a mis hijos repartidos.

Estar como limosneras, en vez de que la municipalidad se haga cargo”, dijo Yasna Labrín, de 39 años, a la AP.

“Los niños tienen mucho miedo por las réplicas y queremos evitarles que tengan que vivir entre los disparos de los saqueadores que están robando a sus propios vecinos, después que se van los militares”, agregó.

Es un grupo de 16 personas, encabezado por mujeres, mamás solteras o separadas. Magdalena Cuevas, cinco hijos y un nieto, dijo que “los

delincuentes se apoderaron de la población. Se van los 3/8 ‘milicos’ y ellos salen con cuchillos y pistolas a robar a sus propios vecinos”.

Entre las mujeres y bajo un asiento de plaza que usan como una improvisada alacena, mira “Terremoto”, una pequeña perrita de color dorado que se acercó al grupo y del cual ya no se quiere separar. “Cuando nos vayamos tendremos que llevarla para arriba”, dijo, indicando hacia la zona donde se encuentra su barriada.

Concepción amaneció hoy

## Dominicana y Venezuela posponen reunión de mediación

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - El gobierno dominicano anunció hoy el aplazamiento del encuentro entre el presidente Leonel Fernández y el canciller venezolano Nicolás Maduro, que formaría parte de la mediación en el conflicto entre Venezuela y Colombia. La cita “puede ser en cualquier momento”, declaró el ministro dominicano de la Presidencia, César Pina Toribio. Confirmó que Maduro no llegará el lunes, como lo había anunciado Fernández el sábado durante una visita a Colombia. Pina Toribio se abstuvo de explicar las razones de la ausencia de Maduro, mientras que la Oficina de Prensa de la Presidencia indicó que carecía de información sobre el motivo de la cancelación del encuentro.

La AP intentó obtener la versión de la embajada venezolana en Santo Domingo, pero ningún vocero estuvo disponible. El mandatario dominicano, quien encabeza el grupo de países amigos que tratan de mediar en el conflicto entre Colombia y Venezuela, se entrevistó el viernes en Bogotá con su colega colombiano Alvaro Uribe y anunció el encuentro con Maduro. Fernández también visitó el fin de semana la localidad colombiana de Cúcuta, en la frontera con Venezuela, para conocer el impacto comercial por las recientes medidas adoptadas por el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez para limitar el comercio con Colombia. □

## Volcán en lago de Nicaragua lanza cenizas sin causar daños

MANAGUA (Reuters) - El volcán nicaragüense Concepción registró el lunes explosiones de gases y lanzó cenizas que se esparcieron en varias comunidades que viven en el lago donde se localiza, sin que se reportaran de inmediato daños a los pobladores.

Las autoridades alertaron a la población de la isla de Ometepe, en el gigantesco Lago de Nicaragua, cerca de la costa del Pacífico, a estar atentos de la actividad volcánica. El volcán, que mantiene actividad intermitente desde hace varios años, registró explosiones de gases y cenizas desde las 12:40 hora local (18:40 GMT) del lunes, dijo la dirección de Geofísica del Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (Ineter).

Las cenizas alcanzaron las comunidades de Moyogalpa, Los Angeles, Esquipulas y San José del Sur, todas en la isla de Ometepe, dijo el Ineter en un comunicado. En Concepción “se están produciendo cambios producto de desplazamiento del magma en el interior”,

agregó.

El Ineter exhortó a las comunidades que habitan cerca del volcán a prestar atención a cualquier llamado que las autoridades puedan hacer en las próximas horas.

El volcán Concepción, de 1.610 metros de altura, registró en diciembre una explosión de gases y ceniza en Ometepe, la mayor de las islas en el Lago de Nicaragua, sin que se reportaran mayores afectaciones a la población de la zona.

La isla de Ometepe está formada por la unión de los volcanes Concepción y Maderas -de 1.394 metros de altura- y es un importante destino turístico en el país. Unas 35.000 personas habitan en la isla, de 276 kilómetros cuadrados.

En el 2005, una serie de sismos asociados a actividad volcánica del Concepción dejó cuatro lesionados y daños en una veintena de viviendas de comunidades campesinas de Ometepe. □



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# Película argentina “El secreto de sus ojos” gana Oscar

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - La argentina “El secreto de sus ojos” ganó el domingo el premio Oscar a Mejor Película en Idioma Extranjero, convirtiéndose en el segundo filme de ese origen que conquista el galardón entregado por la Academia de Hollywood.

“El secreto de sus ojos”, dirigida por Juan José Campanella, cuenta la historia de un empleado de un juzgado retirado obsesionado con un crimen cometido hace 25 años y que trata de hallar al culpable. Un emocionado Campanella recibió el premio de manos de sus colegas Pedro Almodóvar y Quentin Tarantino.

El director argentino ya había recibido una nominación a Mejor Película en Idioma Extranjero en el 2002, con “El hijo de la novia”. Campanella agradeció en inglés al elenco, a la Academia, a su equipo, a sus productores y luego en español gritó: “Vamos Argentina y un abrazo a los hermanos de Chile”.

Chile, vecino a Argentina, sufrió hace una semana uno de los peores terremotos de la historia mundial, de magnitud 8,8, y posteriores tsunamis que destruyeron a pueblos y dejaron cientos de muertos.

Argentina ya había ganado un Oscar a Mejor Película en Idioma Extranjero por “La historia oficial” (1985), de



El director y miembros del elenco del filme ‘El Secreto de Sus Ojos’ agradecen luego de recibir el premio Oscar a Mejor Película en Idioma Extranjero entregado en una ceremonia en Hollywood, mar 7 2010. REUTERS/Gary Hershorn (UNITED STATES)

Luis Puenzo. Entre los otros nominados para la categoría de Mejor Película en Idioma Extranjero estaba también otra película sudamericana, la peruana “La teta asustada”, de la directora Claudia Llonsa, y “Ajami” de Israel, “Un Prophète” de Francia y “The White Ribbon” de Alemania. El equipo técnico de “El Secreto de sus ojos” siguió la ceremonia por televisión en un bar de Buenos Aires, donde estallaron festejos tras

el anuncio del premio. “Esto es increíble, pensábamos que ganaba la película alemana”, dijo Marcelo Pons, director de arte del filme argentino.

En una conferencia de prensa celebrada en un hotel de Buenos

una historia dura, áspera, sin inhabilitar el humor”, dijo Ricardo Darín, que interpreta al protagonista de la historia.

“En las otras cuatro, el humor está como inhabilitado, eso las iguala un poco”, agregó el actor, secundado por Soledad Villamil, la protagonista femenina.

“El secreto de sus ojos” se convirtió en un éxito de taquilla en Argentina, donde fue visto por más de 2,5 millones de espectadores y también fue muy bien recibido en España. El laureado actor Ricardo Darín es el protagonista del filme y también fue el personaje principal en “El hijo de la novia”.

En el filme, basado en la novela “La pregunta de sus ojos”, de Eduardo Sacheri, Darín interpreta a un ex funcionario de juzgado que se empeña en escribir una novela sobre un caso en el que estuvo involucrado en la turbulenta década de 1970 en Argentina.

“El Secreto de sus ojos” también ganó este año el premio Goya como mejor filme extranjero en español y el año pasado obtuvo varios galardones en el Festival de Cine de La Habana. □

## Relaciones entre España y Venezuela vuelven a tensarse

MADRID (AP) - Las relaciones diplomáticas entre España y Venezuela volvieron a tensarse el lunes tras las palabras del canciller venezolano Nicolás Maduro, quien calificó de “mafioso” al juez que investiga el caso de los vínculos entre ETA y las FARC.

El domingo, un día después de que Madrid y Caracas emitieran un comunicado conjunto negando cualquier apoyo de Venezuela a la organización vasca ETA, Maduro acusó al magistrado Eloy Velasco de formar parte de la “mafia” del ex presidente español José María Aznar, “hijo directo de la dictadura franquista”. La número tres del gobernante Partido Socialista, Leire Pajín, respondió al gobierno de Hugo Chávez que es “inaceptable” tachar a Aznar o a cualquier magistrado de tener vínculos con la mafia y pidió respeto al estado de derecho español. “No es aceptable que se ponga en cuestión a los jueces de nuestro país”, recalcó Pajín en una rueda de prensa.

El juez Velasco fue el autor del auto judicial que la semana pasada acusó a Venezuela de amparar una alianza estratégica y las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia para cometer atentados. □

## Cuba dice no acepta “chantajes” de opositor en huelga de hambre

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Cuba dijo el lunes que no aceptará “presiones ni chantajes”, aludiendo a la huelga de hambre que inició hace 13 días el disidente Guillermo Fariñas para pedir la liberación de los presos políticos enfermos.

El diario oficial Granma dijo que Fariñas, un psicólogo de 48 años que inició su ayuno un día después de la muerte de otro disidente en una protesta similar, es un “vendepatria” de “conducta antisocial”.

“La manipulación es tal que reportes periodísticos llegan a plantear que el Gobierno cubano ha indicado que se deje morir a este asalariado de la Sección de Intereses de los Estados Unidos en La Habana”, dijo el artículo de Granma.

“Cuba(...)no aceptará presiones ni chantajes”, agrega la nota firmada por el periodista Alberto Núñez Betancourt, que agrega que la salud del disidente presenta “un deterioro notable”.

Fariñas entró en huelga de hambre tras

la muerte del disidente Orlando Zapata, fallecido en febrero después de un ayuno de 85 días, que avivó las críticas internacionales sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en el Gobierno de Raúl Castro.

Granma, en cambio, dice que Fariñas ha usado el ayuno en el pasado “para evadir la justicia”, después de que fue sancionado a tres años de prisión por agredir a una funcionaria de un centro de salud donde trabajaba como psicólogo.

Fariñas sostiene que esta es su huelga de hambre número 23. En el 2006 protagonizó un ayuno de varios meses, que lo llevó a ser internado y alimentado por vía intravenosa hasta que detuvo su protesta para pedir libre acceso a internet. La pasada semana, recibió por vía intravenosa ocho litros de agua, glucosa, lactosa y minerales en un hospital de Santa Clara, a unos 270 kilómetros al este de La Habana, adonde llegó inconsciente por una crisis hipoglicémica. □

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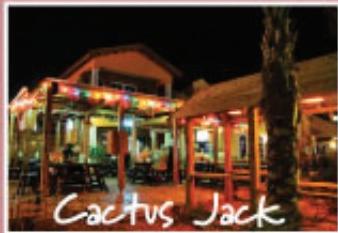


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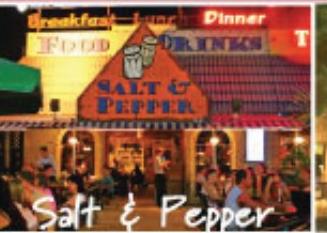
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